

Application No. 10/644,275  
Amendment Dated 8/18/04  
Reply to Office Action of 5/18/04

*Amendments to the Claims*

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1     1.     (Currently Amended) A braking apparatus for a fishing reel comprising:  
2             a braking assembly having a base and a selector;  
3             a contacting structure surrounding said braking assembly; [[and]]  
4             a plurality of braking elements slidably located within said base of said braking  
5                 assembly, said braking elements slidably movable from a retracted position to  
6                 an extended position, wherein said braking elements make braking contact  
7                 with said contacting structure in said extended position; [[and]]  
8             said [[a]] selector adapted to restrict selected braking elements from contacting said  
9                 contacting structure; and  
10            wherein said contacting structure is axially stationary with respect to said braking  
11            assembly.

1     2.     (Original) The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein:  
2             said braking elements are extended to contact said contacting structure by centrifugal  
3     force.

1     3.     (Original) The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein:  
2             each of said braking elements have a post extending from a surface of said braking

3 elements, said post for limiting travel of said braking elements from said retracted position to  
4 said extended position.

4. Canceled

1 5. (Original) The braking apparatus of claim 3 wherein:

2 said braking assembly is comprised of said selector and a brake assembly base;

3 said selector has a rearward face, said rearward face defining a plurality of  
4 indentations;

5 said brake assembly base has a forward face, said forward face defining a plurality of  
6 radial slots;

7 said rearward face of said selector mates against said forward face of said brake  
8 assembly base;

9 said braking elements are slidably located within said radial slots of said brake  
10 assembly base; and

11 said post of said braking elements protrude into said indentations of said forward face.

1 6. (Original) The braking apparatus of claim 5 wherein:

2 said indentations have an inner wall and an outer wall for restraining radial movement  
3 of said post of said braking elements, thereby establishing a location of said retracted position  
4 and said extended position of said braking elements.

1     7.     (Original) The braking apparatus of claim 6 wherein:

2             said outer wall of said indentations have a small radius segment and a large radius  
3     segment.

1     8.     (Original) The braking apparatus of claim 7 wherein:

2             said indentations and each post of said braking elements may be moved relative to  
3     one another such that each post may be selectively exposed to said small radius segment and  
4     said large radius segment for selectively restraining said braking elements.

1     9.     (Original) The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein:

2             said braking assembly is comprised of said selector and a brake assembly base; and  
3             said selector is rotationally affixed to said brake assembly base.

1     10.    (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 1 wherein:

2             said braking assembly may be configured to selectively restrain a desired number of  
3     braking elements to prevent said desired number of braking elements from contacting said  
4     contacting structure.

1     11.    (Currently Amended) A method for braking a reel on a fishing reel comprising the  
2     steps of:

3             setting a selector to restrict a desired number braking elements from radial movement

4                   within a base of a braking assembly;  
5                   spinning said braking assembly;  
6                   providing a contacting structure surrounding said braking assembly;  
7                   extending a selected number of braking elements from said base of said braking  
8                   assembly with centrifugal force to make braking contact with said contacting  
9                   structure.

1    12.   (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein:  
2                   limiting travel of a selected one of said braking elements by selectively engaging a  
3                   portion of said braking element.

1    13.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein:  
2                   said step of limiting travel of a selected one of said braking elements comprises  
3                   locating a brake element post within one of a plurality of indentations ~~an indentation~~ formed  
4                   in said braking assembly.

1    14.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein:  
2                   said step of setting a selector moves indentations relative to posts extending from said  
3                   braking elements such that said posts are selectively located on a radial path that intersects  
4                   one of a small radius segment and a large radius segment that comprise walls of said plurality  
5                   of indentations.

- 1    15.    (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14 wherein:  
2            said step of setting a selector comprises locating said small radius segment and said  
3    large radius segment by imparting relative rotational motion between said posts and said  
4    plurality of indentations for selectively restraining said braking elements.
- 1    16.    (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:  
2            maintaining said contacting structure in an axially stationary relationship with respect  
3    to said braking assembly during use.
- 1    17.    (Original) The method according to claim 11 wherein:  
2            said step of setting a selector comprises rotating said selector with respect to a brake  
3    assembly base.
- 1    18.    (New) A braking apparatus for a fishing reel comprising:  
2            a braking assembly having a base and a selector;  
3            a contacting structure surrounding said braking assembly; and  
4            a plurality of braking elements slidably located within said base of said braking  
5            assembly, said braking elements slidably movable from a retracted position to  
6            an extended position, wherein said braking elements make braking contact  
7            with said contacting structure in said extended position;

8            wherein each of said braking elements have a post extending from a surface of said  
9            braking elements, said post for limiting travel of said braking elements from  
10           said retracted position to said extended position;  
11           a selector having a rearward face, said rearward face defining a plurality of  
12           indentations, said selector adapted to restrict selected braking elements from  
13           contacting said contacting structure;  
14           wherein each of said plurality of indentations are adapted to receive said post.

1    19.    (New) A braking apparatus for a fishing reel comprising:  
2           a braking assembly having a base and a selector;  
3           a contacting structure surrounding said braking assembly;  
4           a plurality of braking elements slidably located within said base of said braking  
5           assembly, said braking elements slidably movable from a retracted position to  
6           an extended position, wherein said braking elements make braking contact  
7           with said contacting structure in said extended position;  
8           said selector adapted to restrict selected braking elements from contacting said  
9           contacting structure; and  
10           wherein said plurality of braking elements are located an equal distance from said  
11           selector.